

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN NEA-02

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS RDLORTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ACTION LONDON INFO ABU DHABI ADDIS ABABA
BANGKOK

BLANTRYE CAIRO CANBERRA CAPE TOWN CARACAS COLOMBO DACCA DAR ES
SALAAM HONG KONG ISLAMABAD JAKARTA JIDDA KARACHI KUWAIT
LUSAKA LOURENCO MARQUES LISBON MANAMA MOGADISCIO MANIL MOSCOW
MUSCAT NAIROBI NEW DELHI NATO PORT LOUIS PARIS PEKING PRETORIA
RANGOON SINGAPORE TEL AVIV TANANARIVE USUN NEW YORK WELLINGTON
CINCPAC USCINCEUR CINCUSNAVEUR CINCLAND DOD COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPACFLT

QUOTE E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, XO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA: PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE
COMMENTS

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER ON
ABOVE SUBJECT AT PRESIDENT FORD'S PRESS CONFERENCE
AUGUST 28:

QUOTE: QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, YOU SAID LAST MARCH IN AN
INTERVIEW, I THINK IN SEAPOWERS MAGAZINE, THAT YOU CAME DOWN
QUITE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHING A U.S.-INDIAN OCEAN
FLEET WITH THE NECESSARY BASES TO SUPPORT IT. DO YOU STILL
FAVOR THAT AND DO YOU FAVOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA?

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THE PRESIDENT: I FAVOR THE LIMITED EXPANSION OF OUR BASE

AT DIEGO GARCIA. I DON'T VIEW THIS AS ANY CHALLENGE TO THE
SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIET UNION ALREADY HAS THREE MAJOR
NAVAL OPERATING BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THIS PARTICULAR
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION, I THINK, IS A WISE POLICY, AND IT
OUGHT NOT TO IGNITE ANY ESCALATION OF PROBLEMS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. END QUOTE. KISSINGER
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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